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782

E

11947 2
16 DEC

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number E 11947/46/31

FROM BV Command.

No. 16 Dec.

Dated Received in Registry

Rockefeller Archaeological Museum
CO. tel 3220 of 10 Dec, asks 14/12 Palestine
for material reply for P.Q. put down for 17 Dec.
asking to be put down whether he will draw attention of UN
to the risk that the valuable and irreplaceable
contents of the Rockefeller Archaeological Museum
in Jerusalem may be looted or damaged if the
museum area is the scene of fighting and
whether to put state the present and future
position of the museum's endowment.

(Minutes.)

JB Dec. 16

Last Paper.

11946

References.

In P.P. P.Q. Meeting 17/12.

H.B. 24/12

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

61798

(Action completed.)

JEM 17/12

(Index)

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

1768/1/21 48
E 11997

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Reference: FO 371 / 61798

693

E

F 11997

1947

PALESTINE

18 DEC

6

Registry Number

F 11997 / 46 / 31

TELEGRAM FROM

Enoch Powell (Washington)

No.

7042

Dated

16 Dec

Received in Registry

18 Dec.

Disturbances in Palestine

Addressed to Jerusalem 16.07 of Dec 16

Reports have appeared in the United States

Press that Palestine Administration is

favoring the Arabs & preventing Jews from defending themselves. Requests information regarding policy, armaments & conveying.

Last Paper.

F 11947

(Minutes.)

N.A. Dept. P. 30/12

HB. 237/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

g. Le. Matthews (C.O.)

bdr. Evershed (C.O. Off)

M. I. 3a

M. C. 4

Adby

✓ A.M. 16 Dec.

(Action completed.)

L. E. 31/12

(Index.)

9/1/48

Next Paper.

F 12028

30471 F.O.P

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Reference: FO 371 / 61798

attacks on Jewish travellers. It also mentions points (C) and (D) in the preceding paragraph, refers to reports of two attacks by the Transjordan Frontier Force on Jewish convoys and ends by placing responsibility for "existing conditions of lawlessness and disorder" on the Palestine Administration.

4. Although the object of these stories is clear, it would be useful to me to know what your general policy is as regards policing, arming and convoying and to have any information and guidance that would enable me to give concrete answers to enquiries or accusations based on points made as those cited in paragraph 2 above and to the telegram referred to in paragraph 3.

Foreign Office please pass.

[Copy sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office, for repetition to Jerusalem.]

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61798

1947 31	Palestine EASTERN	E12028 / G 10
E12028146 10 BME0 60Y Dated 16 Dec Received 18 Dec	Palestine: Nuri Fakhri's ideas	
Last Paper. E11898	(Minutes.) I gather from Mr. Lewis Jones that the Saudi has already given assurances to the Americans about the oil concessions	
References.	H. Beely 18/12 L. P. L. Pyman 20/12	
(Print.)	The Iraqi M.F.A. has given us his view that only US pressure on the Jews to compromise can effect a settlement, & he is probably right. But it is probably too early for us to urge the US Govt to adopt any such course. We must unfortunately wait until some more blood has been spilt.	
(How disposed of.)	I am sure there is a great deal in para. 3 of this tel. Most Arab leaders	
(Action completed.) 	(Index.) 	28888 F.O.P.
Next Paper.	leaders	

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61798**

E
E12028

18 DEC 1947
[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTF

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET)

12

FROM BRITISH MIDDLE EAST OFFICE CAIRO TO
FOREIGN OFFICE

No. 607

D. 9.58 a.m. 17th December, 1947.

16th December, 1947. R. 10.50 a.m. 17th December, 1947.

Repeated to Washington,
United Kingdom Delegation New York,
Bagdad
Jedda Saving,
Amman, "
Damascus, "
Beirut, "
Jerusalem."

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 607 of
December 16th repeated Washington, United Kingdom
Delegation New York, Bagdad and Saving to Jedda, Amman,
Damascus, Beirut and Jerusalem.

Nuri Pasha's ideas as outlined to Clayton yesterday appear as follows.

1. As a first step an attempt will be made to persuade Ibn Saud to approach the Americans with a view to their modifying their attitude over partition. Arguments it is suggested that he uses are the difficult position [grp. omitted] he is himself placed between other Arabs and the Americans. It is also apparently hoped that he will use the suggestion that he might cancel or restrict oil concessions. If he succeeds the way will be [grp. undec.] compromise of some sort. If he fails the Arabs will continue with their military plans. These as Nuri Pasha envisages them are to occupy as much of Palestine as possible with regular forces of Transjordan and Iraq but no (repeat no) troops to enter the country until after the termination of the mandate. Thereafter they will occupy areas as we evacuate them both in Arab and Jewish zones. There will be no interference with our military facilities or communications and every care is to be taken to avoid the risk of clashes with us. Irregulars will

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Reference:

FO 371

61798

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13.

(2)

move in also though Nuri Pasha wishes this discouraged until we relinquish administration. By these tactics he hopes to be able to disrupt Jewish sources of supply especially of petrol.

2. Salih Jabr whom Clayton also saw yesterday sketched more or less the same line of action but he is a good deal more extreme in his views of what Ibn Saud should do. He wishes to demand that the latter carry out economic sanctions agreed to in the Arab League Council in the autumn and cancel or suspend American oil concessions. If Ibn Saud acts accordingly Salih Jabr says he will do the same by concessions in Iraq. If Ibn Saud refuses Salih Jabr will not consider himself bound by the League's decisions and will not attempt oil sanctions but resort to such military measures as may be agreed upon.

3. Clayton thinks Salih Jabr would see in Ibn Saud's refusal to apply oil sanctions a useful weapon against Ibn Saud's influence in the Arab world and a means of increasing relatively that of Hashimite States. It is not unlikely that the same idea is in Nuri Pasha's mind. At the same time there is no doubt that always the thought of both of them is to try to upset or alter the Palestine decision.

Foreign Office please pass to Washington and United Kingdom Delegation New York as my telegrams Nos. 60 and 376[grp.undec.].

[Repeated to Washington and United Kingdom Delegation New York].

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795

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12109
22 DEC

1547

PALESTINE

1A

Registry Number

E12109/46/51

FROM

P.O.

No.

111 Hoy.

Dated

Received in Registry

18 Dec
22 -

Jerusalem - Jaffa Road (Patrols)

Atty. asked how many attacks have been made by Arabs on transport proceeding along the Jerusalem-Jaffa road since 29 Nov, and what arrangements have been made to protect traffic along this highway. Mr. A. Williams. Eleven attacks have been reported since 29 Nov. Road patrols are now maintained. British troops are in support of police in Ramleh - Lydda area.

Last Paper.

12028

(Minutes.)

1213.227/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

J. E. M. 25/12

(Index)

[Signature]

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12110

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Reference: FO 371 / 61798

EASTERIN

15

Encls

E

Parliamentary Question

* 27. Mr. Hoy.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, how many attacks have been made by Arabs on transport proceeding along the Jerusalem-Jaffa road since 29th November 1947; and what arrangements have been made to protect traffic along this highway. [Thursday 18th December.]

Jah

Leil

ANSWERED 18 DEC 1947
REPLY ATTACHED

F.O. ARE NOT ASKED TO ADVISE

PALESTINE

Jerusalem—Jaffa Road
(Patrols)

176. Mr. Hoy asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies how many attacks have been made by Arabs on transport proceeding along the Jerusalem—Jaffa road since 29th November, 1947; and what arrangements have been made to protect traffic along this highway.

Mr. Rees-Williams: Eleven attacks on Jewish traffic on the Jerusalem—Jaffa road have been reported since 29th November. Road patrols are now maintained on this road and British troops are stationed in support of the police in the Rafleh—Lydda area.

12:00
22 DEC

(418)

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61798

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796

E

12110

16

1217

PAID BY ME

22 DEC

Registry Number FROM

E12110/46/31

No.

P.G.
M. Tanner

Dated

Received in Registry

18 Dec
22

Political Incident, Arab Legion
M. Tanner. asked Dept whether he is aware that the Arab Legion has twice attacked Jewish transport during last week days, and what action he proposes taking to prevent recurrence of outrages.
M. Stewart. There is no evidence to suggest that any members of Arab Legion took part in the incident at Yagur. The incident at Beit Nabalah is subject of a report of inquiry.

Last Paper.

12109

(Minutes.)

H.B. 22/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

J.P. 12/22/12

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

12114

29470 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61798

EASTERN

17 Eastern
E

Parliamentary Question

lab

* 19. Mr. Janner,—To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether he is aware that the Arab Legion has twice attacked Jewish transport during the last seven days, at Yazur and at Beth Nasalah, killing 14 and wounding 10, and what action he proposes taking to prevent a recurrence of these outrages. [Thursday 18th December.]

Leicester West

ANSWERED 18 DEC 1947
REPLY ATTACHED.

H.O. ARE NOT ASKED TO ADVISE

**ARAB LEGION,
PALESTINE (INQUIRY)**

173. Mr. Janner asked the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the Arab Legion has twice attacked Jewish transport during the last seven days, at Yazur and at Beth Nabalab, killing 14 and wounding 10, and what action he proposes taking to prevent a recurrence of these outrages.

Mr. M. Stewart: There is no evidence to suggest that any member of the Arab Legion took part in the incident at Yazur. The incident which occurred at Beth Nabalab is at present the subject of a court of inquiry, and my hon. Friend will not, therefore, expect me to comment on it until the findings of the court have been received.

12110
22 DEC

(415/6)

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797

E

12114
22 DEC
18

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E12114/46/31

FROM

OO

No.

Command.

Dated

Received

in Registry

22 Dec

British troops in Tel Aviv - Jaffa area
total 3200 to Palestine of 9/12. Order
confirmation that British troops occupy buffer
position between Tel Aviv and Jaffa to
prevent communal clashes.

Last Paper.

12110

(Minutes.)

G.P.P. Pithers W 2383 19/12

References.

H.B. 22/12

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

G.L.W. 25/12

(Index.)

[Signature]

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E 12158

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Reference:-

EO 371 / 61798

798

E

12:58

1947

PALESTINE

23 DEC

21

Registry Number

12158/46/31

FROM

Mrs. Sherry

No.

Dated

11/23/47

Received in Registry

5 Dec.

23 -

Political Situation.

Transmit evidence of munitions being given to Arabs by British Army and Police, re supply of arms etc. In order that better security be arranged

Last Paper.

12114

(Minutes.)

7/13. 27/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

J. E. M. 24/12

(Index.)

9/1/48

Next Paper.

1211-9

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References - FO 371 / 61798

Mr Marshall U.S. Foreign Secretary
and Consul in palestine and High Commissioner.

Nazareth. 5.12.1947

512158
23 DEC

22

Excellencies,

In the precious name of the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings; the writer an old Christian Palestinian nun of the Convent of Nazareth bring to your notice the perhaps already repeated complaints from an eye witness of the intrigues, injustices and the unhumanitarian ways and doings of your friends the British in the HOY AND; they have certainly been heard by HIM who will revenge. You are trying to give them loan after loan to save them from their eternal disaster but you are encouraging them to continue nazism in methods for which your beloved country contributed so much to save this world from hitlerism. Any eye witness of the intrigues of the Nazism in Germany would find no difference what is being committed the British here.

Let me cite just a few: last night a large ammunition dump comprising hundred of rifles, Bron Guns etc were supposed to have been stolen by the Arabs. The place is well guarded by British and Arab gien from that Independent Country by name only. You would not be surprised to hear it for it were a well prepared plan; this refresh our memory to similar acts in 1936 when British soldiers were loading animals with considerable amount of ammunition to accompany them but really consigned to RA. UJI the arab leader and next day the Bulletin of the Government alleges that the animals have lost their way (sic.) thus straightening the Arabs; this is only one side of the picture. The Arabs were under the British Order and immediately the second world war was on, the Arabs stopped the fight quickly.

Five days ago another large dump ammunition exploded in the Peninsula Baracks at Haifa. The explosion shook the town and the bulletin issued claimed this time "Accidents." I came in contact with an Army Officer when I asked him if this were true and he asked me what nationality I was, when I said "Palestinian Arab" he replied "In confidence that more than half of the 'stock' had been pinched by our boys and sold to your people and some were even given free" (Stocktaking is due shortly and the only way is to set fire to avoid disclosure of shortage. All arab villages have been voluntary and freely armed to their teeth. But every effort is being made to detect ammunition held by the Jews, seize it, put in concentration Camps those with whom hold and later distribute the ammunition amongst the Arabs. You see Justice and British Tradition which is now worse than Nazism.

on 3. 2. 947 curfew was imposed on Haifa till 5a.m. on Monday the 5. 2. 947 everybody had to break the Sabbath as several shops had to open to supply food with the short time before the curfew is imposed. no reason was given. I have seen heads of families running in panic. Large queues waited but bread was not available. You cannot imagine the panic at a moments notice in this mandatory land. I wonder if they have the right but of course there are several other more important things which they are doing infringing the mandat hence all these trouble to which the British are solely responsible before GOD and the whole world this was also proved before the U.N. Commission when it visited this country. The idea was purely "Nazism for this curfew, a pleasure to see and witness the "Break" of the Sabbath and impose as much inconvenience and loss of money to the Jews as possible thus to tight the oppression to maximum.

Last week I was standing in Jaffa Road by an English Restaurant Spinneys. An English man with his family was standing by waiting taxi. I happened to be standing by when an arab came and whistle to the English man and said "You go in quickly" I am waiting for a Jewish Bus to pass. We all went in quickly and in less than a minute we heard the hand grenade thrown by this arab at the Jewish Bus.. I then spoke to the Englishman and said "But your Government promised to preserve order in this country at least so long as you are here. Could you believe it he said and added "Our police and army wont interfere, let one dog kill another" I asked perhaps we may have peace when the United commission arrives here" and he said "Yinkin (perhaps why should they come to try there is plenty of time. From further conversation, I gathered there are many things being done to delay the arrival of the commission so that incidents enlarge, traing of the arabs expedite, and create heavy obstacles for everybody to say that the British are right in their several past declarations but none would believe them in this country. Perhaps they would believe in their own country ONLY.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61998

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I have gone through Haifa in its darkest hour recently and I have seen with my own eyes British Policemen and soldiers giving matches to arabs to set fire to Jewish property; others were encouraged to loote. Money was offered to youngsters to throw stones at Jewish buses and taxis. I could not believe my eyes neither my ears when I used hear such stories. I merely said they were propoganda against the British. I am an eye witness and it is material for me Jew or Arab. We pray for all and to preserve this country from blood shed and destruction irrespective of race or creed. We hate unjustice. I have further seen many British policemen in uniforms and others in Arab clothes shooting at the Jews to make the atmosphere more tense. I heard English men wish to volunteer for the Arab armies but the present doings are only Treacherous for they are supposed to loyally serve this country and they are paid from its fund. Not a shame. The British prestige is fall. They are conducting Nazim methods in the holy land causing innocent lives to be lost and much property to be destroyed but God of Israel with whom we all believe and pray with all our souls and hearts will certainly revenge. I am sure it is the end of England. Even when I was too young I used to hear "Each nation oppresses could find its end near" History even confirms this.

It is true the Jews are attacking the arabs but of course they could not remain handcuffed any longer for it would show weakness. I understand several circulars were issued and hang'd all over and in the papers. The Jewish Religious heads address'd several communications to Arab Mosques chiefs and Church but with No reply and the regrettic and compell'd course against will had to be taken, as a measure of defence.

I appeal to you in the name of Humanity to arrange for the security of this country to be guarant ed (of course not by the British) to avoid further bloodshed and destruction of property on either side. Jehovah will help you as he is now helping your country. Everybody is admiring the straight forward conduct and financial expen as you are making to save humanity from starvation and to and we hope you would not forget this part of the earth to whom all the religions refer and pray. Soviet Government and people too are being praised for their humanitarian methods. We dont hear blood shed in the vast countries under the soviet but we always hear of blood shed wherever the British set his foot. Look at Tripoli, Jews saved from Fascism and Nazism but exterminated more than 100 souls under the British. Aden over 200 sacrifices three days rioting and the British looking with handcuffed. Syria and Lebanon were given independence by the British to join in the present struggle and later also to join in the bloc against Russia BUT they dont succeed. They want to stab Russia in the back and Russia is alive of the preparations being made which return on Englands head only.

God loves peace and detest any blood shed. All over the world the British who once upon a time were beloved are now detested and unbelieved of course for obvs reasons.

M. Houry
More Houry

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61798

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1947

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PALESTINE

12159

23 DEC

24

Registry Number

12159/46/31

FROM

Gerald Williams
M.P.

No.

Dated 6th Dec

Received in Registry

16 Dec
23 -

Palestine Situation

Transmits copy of letter from a constituent giving suggestions re the Palestine situation, asks for comment.

Last Paper.

12158

(Minutes.)

H.B. 237/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

apt. Gerald Williams
M.P.
from Mr. McNeill
✓ 19 Dec.

(Action completed.)

J. E. 30/12

(Index.)

[Handwritten signature]

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12168

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Reference: FO 371 / 61798

Registry
No. E

~~Top Secret.~~

~~Secret.~~

~~Confidential.~~

~~Restricted.~~

~~Open.~~

Draft letter to
Mr. Hershel
Williams M.P.

(from the Minister
of State)

Private Secretary
to Minister of State

19/12

OUT FILE

19 Dec. 25

May I refer you to your
letter of the 16th December, enclosing
a letter (which I now return) from
one of your constituents on the subject
of Palestine.

His suggestions might be of
value if the dispute in Palestine
~~was~~ primarily a religious quarrel.
Unfortunately, it is not ^{only} that but a
clash between two typical nationalist
movements, and I am afraid it would
be beyond the power of any religious
leader to mediate effectively.

So far as Jerusalem itself is
concerned, you may think it worth
while ~~pointing out to~~ to remind your
correspondent that the city and its
environs will not, under the plan
adopted

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

FO 371

61798

27

Eastern Division

This letter has now been sent. Unless the constituent's letter is of special importance we do not usually keep a copy here, and in this case no copy has been made.

Minister of State's
Dept.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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				2	

Reference:-

FO 371 / 61798

OUT FILE

29

December 19th 1947.

May I refer to your letter of December 16th, enclosing a letter (which I now return) from one of your constituents on the subject of Palestine.

His suggestions might be of value if the dispute in Palestine were primarily a religious quarrel. Unfortunately, it is not only that but a clash between two nationalist movements, and I am afraid it would be beyond the power of any religious leader to mediate effectively.

So far as Jerusalem itself is concerned, you may think it worth while to remind your correspondent that the city and its environs will not, under the plan adopted by the United Nations, form part of either the Arab or the Jewish State, but will be given a separate régime under international control. This provision was made with the explicit purpose of safeguarding the interests of the three monotheistic faiths.

Lt. Commander G.W. Williams, M.P.

(ssd.) Hector McNeil.

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61798

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E 12249

1947

PALESTINE

26 DEC

30

Registry Number

E12249/46/31

FROM

P. A.

No.

M. Skinnard

Dated

18 Dec

Received in Registry

26 -

FORWARDS

*informed what few many boats have been
arrived for carrying arms or for discharging
arms since 29 Nov 1947. in Rec without
in have been arrested since that date for
being in possession and for discharging
firearms.*

Last Paper.

12168

(Minutes.)

H.B. 29/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

P.A. 29/12

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[Signature]

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Reference: FO 371 / 61798

EASTERN.

31 *Encl*

Parliamentary Question

62. Mr. Skinnard,—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, how many Arabs have been arrested for carrying arms or for discharging arms since 29th November 1947. [*Thursday 18th December.*]

lab

Hanns East

ANSWERED 19 DEC 1947
REPLY ATTACHED.

NOT FOR ORAL ANSWER.

F.O. ARE NOT ASKED TO ADVISE

26 DEC

PALESTINE

Firearms

Mr. Skinnard asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies how many Arabs have been arrested for carrying arms or for discharging arms since 29th November, 1947.

Mr. Rees Williams: Since 29th November, 1947, 111 Arabs have been arrested for being in possession of or carrying firearms. Six have been arrested for discharging firearms.

(460)

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61798

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32

12253

12 17

PALESTINE

26 EC

Registry Number

12253/46/21

FROM

P.A.

No.

M. H. H. H.

Dated

Received in Registry

1921E
26 -

French Police announced that
M. H. H. H. advised staff for retaining. Large many
armoured cars in kind on the establishment of
the French Settlement Police a list of vehicles
provision has not for granted to bring out these
armoured cars for the purpose of carrying
in the settlement. Hereafter cars are held. These have
been authorized for state defence of French
colonies and are not intended for general conveyance duty.

Last Paper.

12249

(Minutes.)

H.B. 29/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

P.L.M. 29/12

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

12214

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Reference: FO 371 / 61798

EASTERN

Parliamentary Question

Eastern
1/E
33

84. Mr. H. Hynd.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, how many armoured cars are held on the establishment of the Jewish Settlement Police in Palestine; and why permission has not been granted to bring out these armoured cars for the purpose of convoy. [Friday 19th December.]

lab

Hackney Central

ANSWERED 19 DEC 1947
REPLY ATTACHED.

NOT A FINAL ANSWER.

Jewish Police (Armoured Cars)

Mr. H. Hynd asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies how many armoured cars are held on the establishment of the Jewish Settlement Police in Palestine; and why permission has not been granted to bring out these armoured cars for the purpose of convoy.

Mr. Rees-Williams: Seventeen armoured cars are held on the establishment of the Jewish Settlement Police. These have been authorised for close defence of Jewish colonies and are not intended for general convoy duty. In this connection I would invite the hon. Member's attention to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for East Harrow (Mr. Skinnard) on 18th December.

(461/2)

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61798

EASTERN

12150

Enter E
35

Parliamentary Question

83. Mr. Niall Macpherson.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he will give the population of each of the seven areas into which Palestine is to be divided under the revised U.N.O. plan, showing it under the following separate headings: Arab, Jewish, other races. [Friday 19th December.]

LN

Dumfries

ANSWERED 19 DEC 1947
REPLY ATTACHED.

NOT FOR ORAL ANSWER.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS

(460/1)

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61798

804

E

12272

29

37

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number E12272/46/31

FROM

A. J. Akubant.

No.

Central Working Party
Labour Party

Dated

11.11.47

Received

in Registry

11.11.47

29

At the situation
transmit copy of letter from Yipin Lavi Lami
to Major Terman for the transmission to the
Major's Committee as follows: situation

Last Paper.

~~E12283~~ 12254

(Minutes.)

743 1/1

References.

E12049/32/31

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

opt. Major Terman
from def.
(encs)

✓ Dec. 31

(Action completed.)

J. C. 16/9/47

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E 12283
~~E 12254~~

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Reference:

FO 371

61798

Copy.

(E 2272/46/31)

39

The enclosed message is for transmission to the Mayor and Councillors of your Corporation. It concerns all the citizens of your town.

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COPY

IRGUN XVAI LEUMI
b'Eretz Israel

40
December, 1947

Though your Government has announced its intention of evacuating our country, it is making plans for a bloody struggle between Jews and Arabs, out of which it means to gain renewed control of the country.

The British representative at the United Nations has made it clear that the Government plans to withdraw the civil administration but to keep the Army, in military occupation of the country. The Army is not only to organise its departure. It is going to rule the areas in which it remains while the evacuation is going on.

The evacuation is to be carried out in such a way as to encourage and aid the Arabs to attack the Jews who, on account of the continued British occupation of their key areas, will be tied hand and foot in their efforts at defending themselves or counter-attacking.

Officially, the British troops will be "looking on". They will not lift a finger -- except to crush any military activity by the Jews still "subject" to British Occupation.

The long-cherished dream of the British Foreign Office is thus to be achieved: an Arab-Jewish war in which (it is planned) the Arabs are to have the upper hand. And the Jews are thus to be crushed -- or driven to beg for British aid. British aid will then be offered, on condition -- that the country remains effectively under British control.

That is the master-plan. In accordance with this plan, Arab attacks have already begun even before the evacuation begins and they are being carried out with the cooperation of the British forces. British forces are thus providing cover for the Arab attacks, preventing the Jews from putting their defensive measures into operation, killing Jewish defenders and disarming them. Already the British forces have made it possible for their Arab hirelings to paralyse communication between Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem and forced the evacuation by Jews of part of the Tel-Aviv - Jaffa border area. A substantial proportion of Jewish casualties have been inflicted by British arms -- including a woman and her child crossing a street.

These events of the past few days have only made clearer your Government's intentions and plans. And we want to warn you that we shall act to counter and frustrate them. If Arab dupes and mercenaries, misled or paid by British wire-pullers, and encouraged to believe in an easy victory, continue to attack us, we shall not only defend ourselves against them. We shall attack the real enemy, who sends and helps them. If there is more bloodshed in our country it is not, as Mr. Bevin plans, going to be only Arab and Jewish blood that is shed. It will be British as well.

We want you to know this because it is your sons and brothers, sent to risk their lives for your Government's squalid policy, who will pay the price of that policy. We want you to know this because we are not interested in killing them. We want to be left in peace in our country and have no objection to their remaining in peace -- in yours.

But as long as they are here and we know the purpose of their presence is to ensure the shedding of Jewish blood we shall attack them.

Moreover, as your Government's war against our people and its efforts to crush us are world-wide (remember the sea blockade against our repatriates, remember the "Exodus 1947") -- our counter-attacks will not be limited to Eretz Israel.

We have determined to liberate our country and re-establish our independence, and we mean to finish the job.

It is for you to decide whether your sons and brothers are to risk their lives in order to carry out a senseless policy of hate and oppression.

If the British Occupation Administration withdraws from our country and if the British troops in our country, while they are organising their

/evacuation,

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H

evacuation, concern themselves only with evacuation they will not be attacked by us.

But any attempt by whatever means to perpetuate British rule in whatever form and in whatever part of our country will result in a new offensive by the Irgun.

We feel it is right to give you this warning because we know that your Government is not telling even its own people the truth. We prefer you to succeed in changing your Government's plans by your own means. If you do not -- we shall have to do it.

Demand of your Government therefore that it carry out its evacuation from our country speedily, in orderly fashion, and without further interference of any kind in our affairs or our relations with our Arab neighbours. So that your soldiers may return Home in peace.

IRGUN XVAI LEUMI
b'Eretz Israel.

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43.

until the last contingents leave on
or before the 1st August, they will
be concerned only with securing their
own withdrawal from the country.

Unfortunately, ^{it is too much to hope} ~~I do not suppose~~
that this policy will protect us from
such ^{deliberate} [misrepresentations as are contained
in the enclosed letter.

H.B. 24/12

Yours sincerely

(Sept) John Heneker

(Private Secretary)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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(E 12272/46/31)

~~Restricted~~

OUT FILE

HH
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

31st
~~30th~~ December, 1947.

Dear Jerman,

Thank you very much for bringing to my attention this mischievous letter (which I now return to you) from the Zionist terrorist organisation, Irgun Xvai Leumi.

It is of course the intention of His Majesty's Government to withdraw their troops from Palestine at the earliest practicable date, and meanwhile to ensure that they are not used either to execute or to frustrate the decision taken by the United Nations. Until the mandate is terminated, which under present plans will be about the middle of May, they will endeavour to maintain order with absolute impartiality as between Arab and Jew. Thereafter, until the last contingents leave on or before the 1st August, they will be concerned only with securing their own withdrawal from the country.

Unfortunately, it is too much to hope that this policy will protect us from such deliberate misrepresentations as are contained in the enclosed letter.

Yours sincerely,

Major R.H.Jerman, C.B.E., M.A.,
Municipal Buildings,
Wandsworth,
S.W.18.

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OUT FILE

45

FOREIGN OFFICE,

S.W.1.

31st December, 1947.

(E 12272/46/31)

Dear Major Jerman,

Mr. Bevin has asked me to thank you very much for bringing to his attention this mischievous letter (which I now return to you) from the Zionist terrorist organisation, Irgun Kvai Leumi.

It is of course the intention of His Majesty's Government to withdraw their troops from Palestine at the earliest practicable date, and meanwhile to ensure that they are not used either to execute or to frustrate the decision taken by the United Nations. Until the mandate is terminated, which under present plans will be about the middle of May, they will endeavour to maintain order with absolute impartiality as between Arab and Jew. Thereafter, until the last contingents leave on or before the 1st August, they will be concerned only with securing their own withdrawal from the country.

Unfortunately, it is too much to hope that this policy will protect us from such deliberate misrepresentations as are contained in the enclosed letter.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) John Henniker.

Private Secretary.

Major R.H. Jerman, C.B.E., M.A.,
Municipal Buildings,
Wandsworth,
S.W.18.

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805

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12283

29 EC

46

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number E12283/24/71
 FROM P. Q
 No. M. H. Hynd
 Dated 18 Dec
 Received in Registry 29

Political Incident, Arab Liquid.
 Mr. Hynd a had left for West, whether in view of fact that units of Arab Legion have been in attack on Jews in Palestine. He will withdraw the paper immediately and not report until the withdrawal of British forces is completed. Mr. Hynd will. Referred to previous reply to Mr. Turner. (E12283/24/71)

Last Paper.

1225472

(Minutes.)

with 29/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)
 J. E. M. 20/12

(Index.)
 29/12/48

Next Paper.

E12354
12272

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EASTERN

712283

Parliamentary Question

58. Mr. H. Hynd.—To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether, in view of the fact that units of the Arab Legion have been in attacks on Jews in Palestine, he will withdraw this force immediately and not wait until the withdrawal of British forces is completed. [Thursday 18th December.]

lab

Hackney Central

ANSWERED 19 DEC 1947
REPLY ATTACHED.

(470)

NOT FOR ORAL ANSWER.

47

**ARAB LEGION,
PALESTINE**

Mr. H. Hynd asked the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that units of the Arab Legion have been in attacks on Jews in Palestine, he will withdraw this force immediately and not wait until the withdrawal of British Forces is completed.

Mr. Shinwell: I would refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for West Leicester (Mr. Janner) yesterday, of which I am sending him a copy.

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Reference:

FO 371

61798

E

12354

1947

PALESTINE

30 DEC

48

Registry Number

E12354/46/31

FROM

M. E. Blauman

No.

E.R.O.

Dated

4th Dec 1947

Received in Registry

19 Dec

30 -

Palatine Decision, Commonwealth Consultations
Transmit list of questions by Lord Alton of Liverpool and of proposed reply, in which Lord Alton asked whether full discussions were held between members of British Commonwealth of Nations before decision on Palatine was taken.
Note HV. concerned

Last Paper.

122 ~~283~~

(Minutes.)

H.B. 307/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

M.E. Blauman

E.R.O.

24 Dec.

(Action completed.)

G.P. 21/12

(Index.)

21/12/48

Next Paper.

E12374

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References: FO 371 / 61798

*Best copy Dept 1933.
2 or early draft reply from me please. E
PM 22/12.*

Commonwealth Relations Office, 49

Downing Street, S.W.1.

19th December, 1947.

Dear Kinna,

12354
30 EC

You may have noticed a Question by Lord Altrincham on the House of Lords Order Paper, under the heading "No day named". This Question was originally going to come up on the 16th December, and we accordingly got out a draft reply. It cannot now, of course, come up until after the Recess, and it is just possible that it may not come up at all. It is, however, felt desirable that Foreign Office concurrence in the draft reply should be obtained in case of accidents, and I accordingly enclose a copy.

Would you kindly let me know in due course whether the Foreign Office concur?

Yours sincerely,

W. C. Dawson

P. F. Kinna, Esq., H.B.E.

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To ask His Majesty's Government, whether full consultations and discussions were held between members of the British Commonwealth of Nations before the decision on Palestine was taken at Lake Success.

Answer

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, in accordance with their normal practice in regard to questions of foreign policy, have kept other Commonwealth Governments informed from time to time of developments in the Palestine situation, and any views expressed by these Governments have been fully taken into account. The decisions of His Majesty's Government in the U.K. about Palestine are however, the responsibility of His Majesty's Government alone.

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OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. 52

24th December, 1947.

Dear Clauson,

With reference to your letter of the 19th December, enclosing a draft answer to a question by Lord Altrincham on the subject of Palestine, the Foreign Office have no objection to the terms of the answer.

Yours sincerely,

M.C. Clauson, Esq.,
Commonwealth Relations Office.

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12374

1947

REG

53

PALESTINE

Registry Number & 12374/46/31

FROM Lt John Singleton

No. to M. Bevin

Dated

Received in Registry 15 Dec 31

Left speech in Palestine debate.
Admin stand taken by M. Bevin re Palestine
speech that it had not adopted all recommendations
of the Committee. But realised the strength of
the Zionist propaganda which had American
politics obtained the upper hand.

Last Paper.

12354

(Minutes.)

H.B. 1/1

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Dy. Mr. John
Singleton
from M. Bevin
✓ 24 Dec

(Action completed.)

P. E. M. 6/1

(Index.)

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

12778

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Personal
copy
Thomson

15 December 1947.

54 | E 708.374

2
31 Reply
IEC

Dear Mr. Bevin -

P. 8K.
10/12.

I was greatly interested to read your speech in the debate on Palestine & I should like to say how much I admire the stand you have taken.

It is a matter for great regret that the Government of the United States did not see its way to adopt all the recommendations of the Committee

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20 DEC 1947
SENT TO DEPT

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DEC 1947
31 DEC 1947

in which all the members, British & American, agreed. I realised when we were in Washington something of the strength of the Zionist publicity campaign, & I can only think that American politics obtained the upper hand.

As things are I feel sure that the sooner our people (including the Police force) are out of Palestine the better. I wish it could have been

otherwise.
The Right Hon^{ble} Ernest Bevin P.C.M.P. Yours sincerely
John R. Singleton.

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Reference:-

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OUT FILE

24th December, 1947.

E12374/46/31

Dear

Many thanks for your letter of the
15th December, which I was very pleased
to receive.

Best wishes for Christmas and for
1948.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) ERNEST BEVIN

Sir John E. Singleton.

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Enter

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E

12378
31 DEC 57

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number E12378/46/31
FROM
No. 60
Dated forward.
Received in Registry 31 DEC

US Reports on Disturbances in Palestine
Palestine tel 2507 of 21/11/47, Report Washington
of 20/12 (E11947/46/31) transmits observations on
accusations set out in tel under ref.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

12374

References.

N. A. Dept
N. A. Dept

H.B. 11

I doubt if W. Tom will feel strong
enough to publish this, but we
might if there is any more criticism
W. Tom 31.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Considerable use of this telegram
has been made in U.S. (Diplomatic
programmes) on 9th and 13th Jan 48.

W. Tom
(W. Tom) 13/1

H.B. 15/1

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

PL 16/1

9/1/48

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INWARD TELEGRAM

12378

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

31 DEC

Cypher (O.T.P.)

58

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 24th December, 1947.

R. 24th " " 22.35 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 2507 Confidential.

Addressed to S. of S.

Repeated to Washington, No. 312.

" to UNDEL New York, No. 1897 (Washington please pass).

Your telegram No. 3329 repeating Washington telegram No. 107 to the Foreign Office.

U.S. reports on the disturbances in Palestine.

2. I have the following observations to make on the accusations set out in Washington telegram:-

Paragraph 2(a). Army and Police mobile patrols operating from Jerusalem and Jaffa-Tel Aviv area cover the entire road and a British battalion is stationed in the Ramleh-Lydda area where the majority of the attacks on Jewish transport have taken place. In addition, Police mounted patrols operate in the areas bordering the main road, while a considerable amount of Police and Army traffic uses the road which, in itself supplements the special dispositions made. Finally, plans for intensifying mobile patrols and military action in the neighbourhood of the road itself are now being put into force.

Paragraph 2(b). Organisation of Jewish traffic in convoys has been carried out independent of official advice. This form of travelling has never been considered advisable for the following reasons:-

(1) The man power at the disposal of the Security Forces is quite insufficient to provide close escorts for the number of convoys which would undoubtedly be demanded.

(ii) Groups of vehicles are easily distinguishable and would be targets for attack in view of the fact that Arab traffic still operates normally.

(iii) The system of road patrols offering overall protection to single vehicles is considered the most effective form of security.

It is considered that to permit drivers of Jewish transport to be armed would increase the general insecurity, since drivers of all vehicles, Jew and Arab alike, would immediately demand similar concession, and injudicious use of firearms by private persons would precipitate rather than (group omitted) trouble. Moreover, possession of a firearm by the driver of a vehicle constitutes no effective protection against small arms fire from ambush. Similar requests by Arab transport drivers have been refused. In this connection please see my telegram No. 2457. /Paragraph

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Paragraph 2(c). 17 armoured cars are held on the establishment of the Jewish Settlement Police and have been authorised for use in close defence of the Jewish colonies in which they are stationed. It would be inadvisable to divert them for convey duty nor are they suitable for this purpose.

No general approval has been given for Jewish Settlement Police to escort convoys of Jewish transport outside the Jewish Colony areas. It has been found that the very presence of Jewish Settlement Police, either in armoured cars, or open vehicles, in Arab mixed areas, provocative of intense racial feeling and is thus a potential source of trouble.

A large number of British Police engaged on security patrols on main roads continue to see open vehicles.

2(d). The allegation is untrue. From 30th November to 21st December inclusive 116 Arabs have been arrested in possession of:-

- 9 Sten guns
- 7,178 rounds of ammunition
- 33 pistols
- 18 grenades
- 86 rifles
- 4 Bren guns
- 1 shot gun
- 34 shot gun cartridges
- 1 rifle bolt.

During the same period, 119 Jews were arrested and the following seized:-

- 19 Sten guns
- 2,076 rounds of ammunition
- 133 grenades
- 41 pistols
- 12 rifles
- 2 Bren guns
- 2 T.S.M.Gs.

In incident at Helon on 14th December, the British Police crews of two armoured cars investigating shooting were fired upon by Jews. They proceeded to the house from which the fire had been directed and arrested five Jews in possession of

- 29 hand grenades
- 1 Bren gun
- 2 Sten guns
- 6 S.M.L.R. rifles
- 1 automatic rifle
- 445 rounds of .303 ammunition
- 58 rounds of 9 millimetre ammunition
- 7 empty Bren gun magazines
- 1 empty Sten gun magazine
- range finding gear.

/2(s).

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

2(e). P.M.'s report of a black market in arms asserts is mischievous nonsense. There is not the slightest evidence to support the allegation, nor has a single complaint on this subject been lodged with the authorities by anybody, Jew or Gentile, in Palestine.

3. The general deterioration in security in Palestine since the acceptance of Partition by U.N.O. is the result of reaction by the Palestine Arabs, which was not unexpected. The full resources of the Police Force, with what military support as has been available, have been used in the maintenance of law and order. A return to normal security conditions might have been achieved had the Jewish population adopted a less aggressive attitude and co-operated with the Security Authorities, but their tendency to take the law into their own hands by using illegal para military organisations has aggravated the situation.

The Jewish Agency controlled Hagana has been on its own admission, responsible for severe attacks on Arab villages, which have caused considerable loss of life (including women and children) and damage to property. Hagana members have, also, turned their weapons on British Police and troops attempting to restore order. Jewish terrorists have been responsible for unprovoked attacks on both Arabs and British Police and soldiers, yet, while ostensibly condemning such attacks, it is known that the Jewish Agency is (corrupt grp.)ing with the terrorist leaders and that it has not altered its policy of refusal to co-operate with the present administration.

Reference to alleged attack by Trans-Jordan Frontier Force on Jewish convoys is not understood. On the contrary, Jews attacked two Trans-Jordan Frontier Force trucks leaving Jerusalem on 11th December killing one trooper and injuring two others. Reference may be intended to incident at Beit Nabala on 14th December when Arab Legion Guards opened fire on a Jewish convoy. Present evidence suggests that the action started by the Jews throwing grenades into the Arab Legion camp. On another occasion, near Asluj, the Police opened fire on a Jewish convoy after a shot had been directed from the convoy at a Police Inspector.

4. On the general question of arming the populace, it must be obvious that indiscriminate arming is no contribution to security, and the maintenance of law and order means that carrying of arms contrary to the law must be regarded by the Security Forces as an offence. Nevertheless, some discretion must be exercised, in the peculiar circumstances of Palestine, as between attack and self protection, and this would be easier in actual practice if Jewish attacks on the British were to cease. Within the past week two British Police Sergeants and a British Officer and Warrant Officer of H.M. Forces have been shot by Jews at close range in broad daylight in the streets of Jerusalem, and two of them have been killed.

The Government has, however, shown its willingness to arm both Jews and Arabs for their own protection, where they are prepared to co-operate with the Government and Security Forces, and where the Government is satisfied that they will be under the control of proper authority.

4. Above can be used for publication.

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RECEIVED IN O.B.

30 DEC 1947

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31 DEC 1947

Copies sent to:-

Cabinet Offices

" "

Ministry of Defence

Treasury

Admiralty

" "

War Office

" "

" (M.O.H.)

Ministry of Transport

" "

Air Ministry

" "

Foreign Office

" "

" "

" "

M.I.5.

- Mr. S.E.V. Lake.
- Brig. Cornwall-Jones.
- Cmdr. W. Ivershed, R.N.
- Mr. A.J. Nowling.
- Mr. D.F.C. Blunt.
- Mr. W. Russell Edmunds.
- Mr. P.N.N. Synnott.
- Captain Maunsell.
- Captain D.H. Hall-Thompson.
- Mr. G.C.B. Dodds.
- Brig. J.R.C. Hamilton.
- Brig. L.L. Wansbrough-Jones.
- Lt. Col. M.M. Charteris.
- Mr. B.F. Picknett.
- Mr. F.C. Rennie.
- Air Commodore Brook.
- Group Capt. V.H.B. Roth.
- Mr. B.A.B. Burrows.
- Mr. H. Beeley.
- Mr. J.G.S. Balith.
- P.S. to Sir Orme Sargent.
- P.S. to Foreign Secretary.
- Mr. J.C. Robertson.

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